

The points involved are three—viz., the necessity, the legality, and the efficiency of legislation.

While we may safely challenge men to point out a single benefit which arises from the use of and the traffic in strong drink, it is beyond dispute that there is no more prolific source of crime, poverty, and insanity. Three-fourths, perhaps nine tenths, of all the brutality, degradation, and disease which curse our country are directly traceable to this one potent cause. The *New York Independent* has made the following statement. "It is affirmed by collectors of statistics in regard to intemperance that in the year 1879 there was paid out for intoxicating drinks by the people of Germany the sum of \$650,000,000; and by those of France \$580,000,000; of Great Britain \$750,000,000, and of the United States \$720,000,000; making \$2,700,000,000. This is about the amount of the debt of the United States at the close of the war of the rebellion; and even this huge sum does not by any means represent the whole cost incident to the use of intoxicating drinks. To this must be added the loss of time thus occasioned, the expense of ill-health and actual disease consequent upon rum-drinking, the cost of punishing the crimes committed by drunkards [and supporting the poor, the paupers, and the insane], and numerous other items, making in the aggregate an actual cost to society fully equal to the amount directly spent for intoxicating liquors. And also the fact that there are no profits that can compensate [even in part] for this enormous cost. Can there be any doubt, as a matter of sound political economy, to say nothing about good morals, that society should arm itself to the teeth for the suppression of a most expensive vice? The most stringent prohibition would be the highest wisdom. Why tamper with such an evil? Why not cut it up, root and branch? The deliberate affirmations made by judges and by juries, the carefully compiled statistics, the appalling category of crime resulting from drunkenness, furnish ample evidence for the necessity of some radical and effective measure which shall remove or restrain this tremendous evil.

The legality of such a measure will scarcely be questioned. It is entirely within the power of the State to enact measures for the protection of the citizens, and to prohibit or restrain any practice or traffic which endangers life and produces disease and distress. The principle has already been affirmed in relation to this very matter. If the State has the power to restrain the sale of strong drink, and to subject it to restrictions and limitations, it has the power to make these restrictions absolutely prohibitory. It is merely a question of degree. No new principle is involved. In the neighboring republic, the legality of prohibition has been affirmed by the highest courts, and finally settled beyond appeal.—*Evangelical Churchman*.

INTEMPERANCE.

I unroll still further the scroll of public wickedness, and I come to intemperance.

There has been a great improvement in this direction. The Senators who were more celebrated for their drunkenness than for statesmanship are dead or compelled to stay at home. You and I very well remember that there went from the State of New York at one time, and from the State of Delaware, and from the State of Illinois, and from other States men who were notorious everywhere as inebriates. That day is past. The grog shop under the National Capitol to which our rulers used to go and get inspiration before they spoke upon the great moral and financial and commercial interests of the country, has been disbanded; but I am told even now under the National Capitol there are places where our rulers can get some very strong lemonade. But there has been a vast improvement. At one time I went to Washington, to the door of the House of Representatives, and sent in my card to an old friend. I had not seen him for many years, and the last time I saw him he was conspicuous for his integrity and uprightness; but that day when he came out to greet me he was staggering drunk.

The temptation to intemperance in public places is simply terrific. How often there have been men in public places who have disgraced the nation. Of the men who are prominent in political circles twenty-five or thirty years ago, how few died respectable deaths. Those who died of delirium tremens or kindred diseases were in the majority. The doctor fixed up the case very well, and in his report of it was gout, or it was rheumatism, or it was ob-

struction of the liver, or it was exhaustion from patriotic services; but God knew and we all knew it was whisky! That which smote the villain of the dark alley smote down the great orator and the great legislator. The one you wrapped in a rough cloth, and pushed into a rough coffin, and carried out in a box waggon, and let him down into a pauper's grave without a prayer or a benediction. Around the other gathered the pomp of the land; and lordly men walked with uncovered heads beside the hearse tossing with plumes on the way to a grave to be adorned with a white marble shaft, all four sides covered with eulogium. The one man was killed by log-wood rum at two cents a glass, the other by a beverage three dollars a bottle. I write both their epitaphs. I write the one epitaph with my lead pencil on the shingle over the pauper's grave; I write the other with chisel, cutting on the white marble of the Senator, "Slain by strong drink."

You know as well as I that again and again dissipation has been no hindrance to office in this country. Did we not at one time have a Secretary of the United States carried home dead drunk? Did we not have a vice-president sworn in so intoxicated the whole land hid itself in shame? Have we not in other times had men in the congress of the nation by day making pleas in behalf of the interests of the country, and by night illustrating what Solomon said, "He goeth after her straightway as an ox to the slaughter and as a fool to the correction of the stocks, until a dart strikes through his liver." Judges and jurors and attorneys sometimes trying important causes by day, and by night carousing together in iniquity.

What was it that defeated the armies sometimes in the last war? Drunkenness in the saddle. What mean those graves on the heights of Fredericksburg? As you go to Richmond you see them. Drunkenness in the saddle. So again and again in the courts we have had demonstration of the fact that impurity walks under the chandeliers of the mansion and drowns on damask upholstery. Iniquity permitted to run unchallenged if it only be affluent. Stand back and let this libertine ride past in his five thousand dollar equipage, but clutch by the neck that poor sinner who transgresses on a small scale, and fetch him up to the police court and give him a ride in the van. Down with small villainy. Hurrah for grand iniquity.

If you have not noticed that intemperance is one of the crimes in public places to-day, you have not been in Albany, and you have not been to Harrisburg, and you have not been to Trenton, and you have not been to Washington. The whole land cries out against the iniquity. But the two political parties are silent lest they lose votes, and many of the newspapers are silent lest they lose subscribers, and many pulpits are silent because there are offenders in the pews. Meanwhile God's indignation gathers like the flashings around a threatening cloud just before the swoop of a tornado. The whole land cries out to be delivered. The nation sweats great drops of blood. It is crucified, not between two thieves, but between a thousand, while nations pass by wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! aha!"—*T. DeWitt Talmage*.

INTEMPERANCE IN GERMANY.

The theory that the devotion of the Germans to beer saves them from the evils of intemperance is being sadly exploded. The last year has witnessed a considerable revival of temperance agitation in Prussia, in regard to which our Consul General at Frankfort, Ferdinand Voegeler, presents some interesting facts in the last bulletin of the State Department. The consumption of beer in Prussia has risen to the enormous amount of 87.6 liters per head annually, and that of ardent spirits to ten or eleven liters per head, far exceeding the American rate of consumption. The liter is a little larger than the quart, so that the Prussian consumption of beer is from 20 to 25 gallons per head, against about 10 gallons in America, while the consumption of spirits there is about 3 gallons, against 1½ in this country, including what is used in the arts. These estimates of the American consumption are derived from the returns of the internal revenue office, and may vary for different years. The number of open drinking saloons in Prussia has increased from 120,000 in 1869 to 165,000 in 1880; ardent spirits were sold in 93,000 of these, being 1 to every 10.4 inhabitants. Of the crimes committed in five years, 41 per cent. were committed under the influence of liquor, and 50 per cent. of the pauperism is due to intemperance.—*Halton News*.